

# MRC Sustainability: Our Financial Wellbeing

**Now and in the Future**



# Members of the Sustainability Work group

- **Todd Abrisch**- York-Adams-Carroll Counties MRC, PA & MD
- **Scott Ingram**- Southern Arizona MRC
- **Janet Leonardi**- Middletown MRC, CT
- **Judy Marston**- VDH State Volunteer Coordinator
- **Laurie Nelson**- Committee Chair, Howard County MRC, MD
- **David Polakowski**- Licking County MRC, OH
- **Ann Reiss**- Montgomery County MRC, MD
- **Tisha Sinclair**- Shawnee County MRC, KS
- **Michael Torma**- Shreveport MRC, LA

# [History]

- The Sustainability Work Group was formed at the Region 3 meeting, November 2005 as a result of mutual consensus that more information was needed to determine the financial needs of the existing Medical Reserve Corps Units.

# Objectives of the Sustainability Work Group

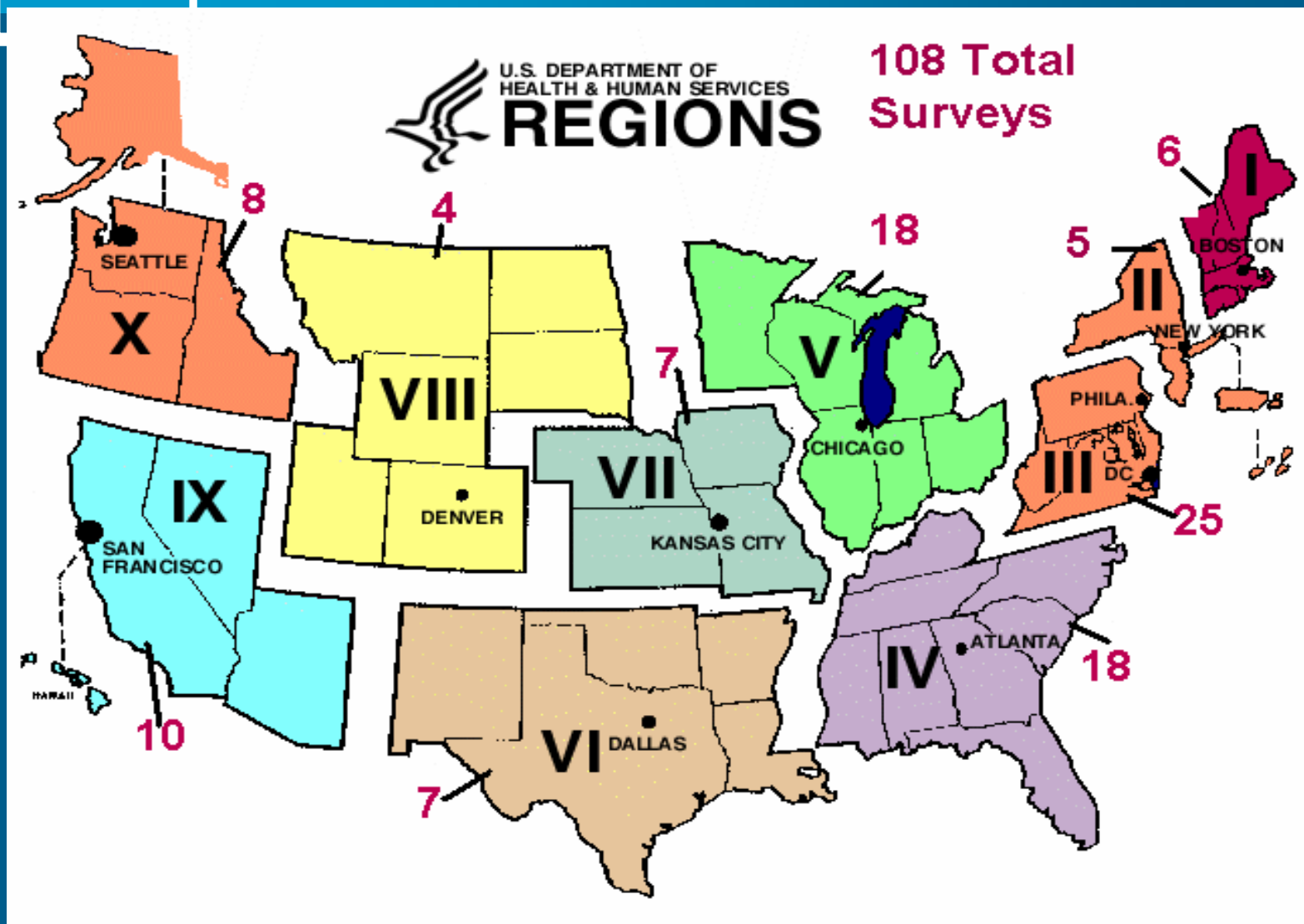
- Address the issue of the financial health and sustainability of all units.
- Assist MRC units to gage their individual financial health
- Target the future financial needs of the National MRC body
- Supply recommendations for future funding

# Who participated in the survey?

## Methodology of Data Collection

- 363 Surveys were sent out to individual MRC units and State coordinators.
- 108 surveys were returned

# Responses came from:





What did you tell us?

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# Mission Statement

**Operational objectives**



# [Mission Statements]

- Keyword search indicated that there are 5 general themes to your Mission Statements.

**They are:**

# [ Mission Theme #1 ]

- To aid in emergency preparedness through the recruitment and training of the members of the community and/or professionals in the event of a public health emergency.

**31 out of 92 responses identified with  
this objective**

# [Mission Theme #2]

- To assist public health/health departments with public health emergencies.

**30 out of 92 responses identified with  
this objective**

# [Mission Theme #3]

- To assist public health/health departments with day-to-day initiatives

**29 out of 92 responses identified with  
this objective**

# [Mission Theme #4]

- To provide Surge Capacity

**21 out of 92 responses identified with  
this objective**

# [Mission Theme #5]

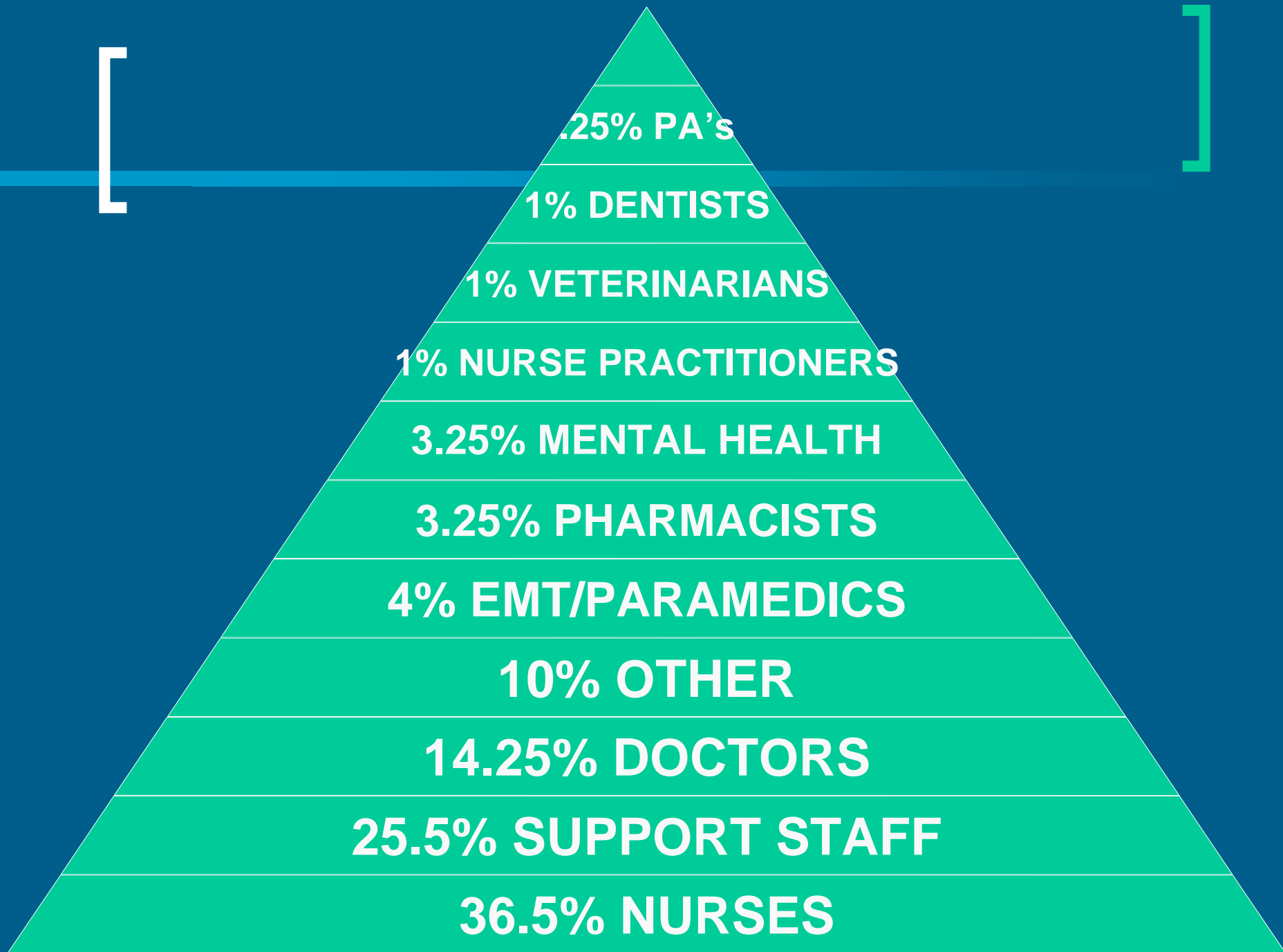
- To supplement existing first responders or emergency response systems.

**15 out of 92 responses identified with  
this objective**

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# Who are your Volunteers?

**Breakdown of the Average  
Percentage of Volunteers  
within Units**







Who is your unit affiliated  
with?



# [ Who is your unit affiliated with? ]

- 71%- Health Department/Public Health
- 4%- Public/Private Hospital System
- 4%- Regional Advisory Committee
- 4%- Public School/University
- 3%- Fires & Rescue Services

# Who is your unit affiliated with? (con't)

- 3%- Local Emergency Management Services
- 3%- Medical Society
- 2%- Local City Government
- 1%- Non-Profit
- 1%- Combination Health and Citizens Corps

# Who is your unit affiliated with? (con't)

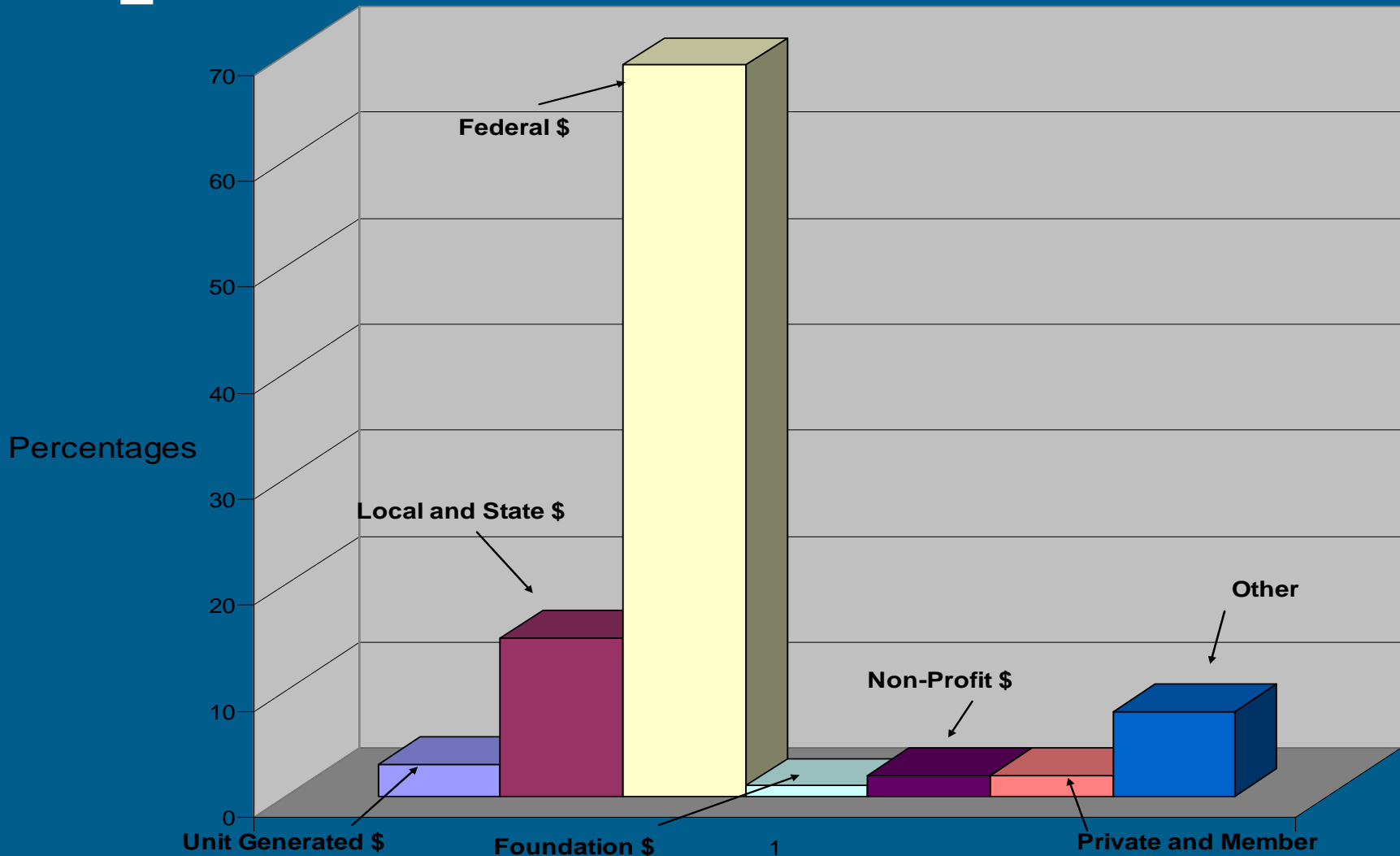
- 1%- Multiple agencies (more than two)
- 1%- Department of Agriculture
- 1%- Religious Association
- 1%- Sheriff's Office/Regional Homeland Security



What are your sources of  
funding



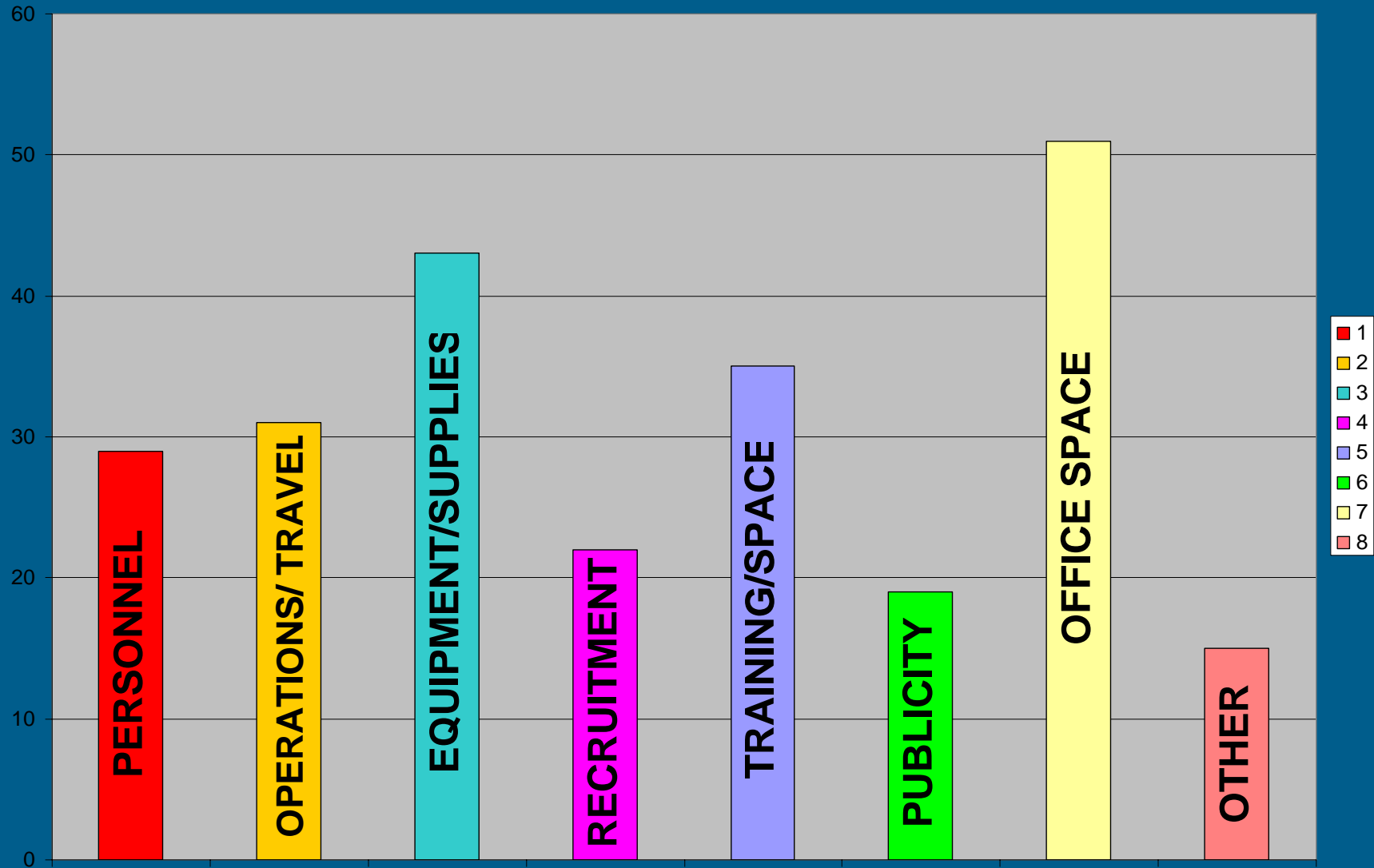
# Funding sources and percentage for each source



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Do you receive any other  
sources of funding?

# “In kind” Funding





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How are your funds spent  
within your unit?

**Spending breakdowns**

# Spending Breakdowns – Average percent of budget spent on...

- Staff/personal- 53%
- Other- 20% (travel)
- General operations- 11%
- Equipment and Supplies- 14%
- Training- 10%
- Recruitment/Outreach & PR- 10%



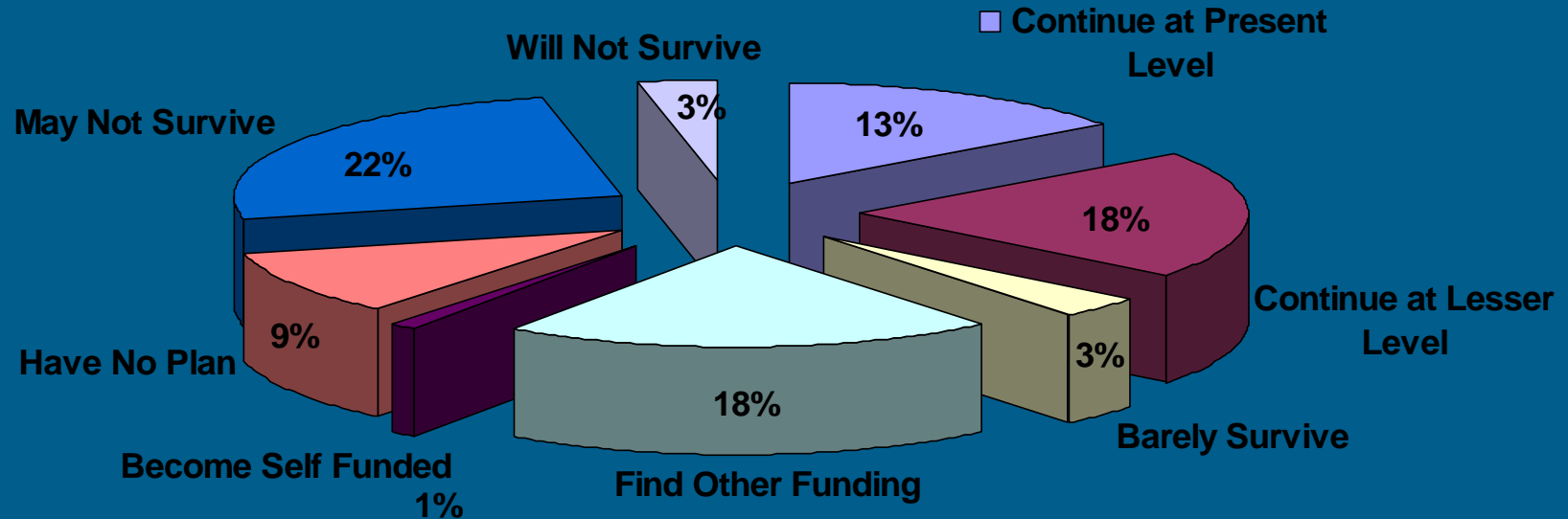
# The future of your funding

- 1) Do you see your current funding “running out”?
- 2) Your anticipated level of operation after current funding “runs out”

# Operational Level w/o current funding

## Future Status of Units

6 Months of Known Current Funding (Average)  
(87% Responded, 13% No Response)

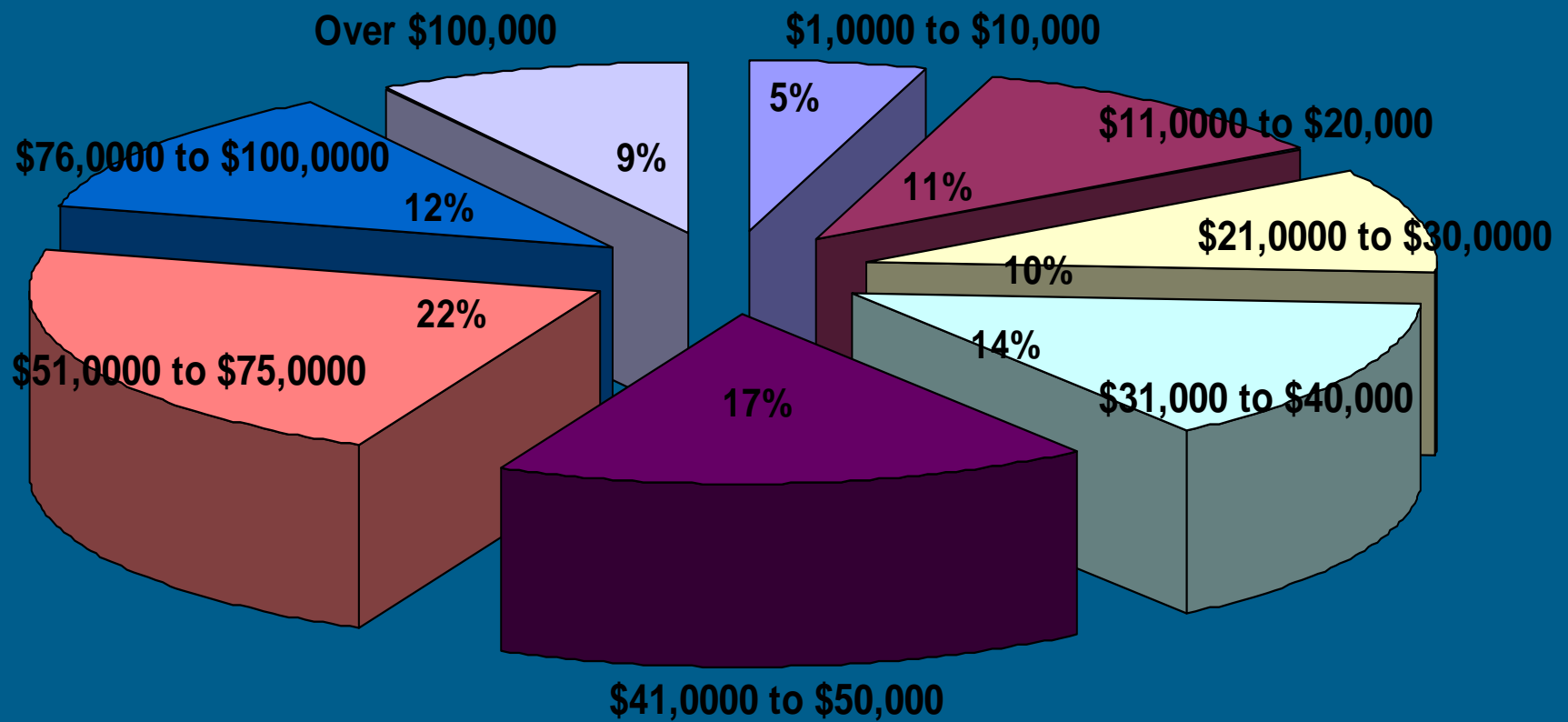




# The future of your funding

**How much money is  
necessary to operate a unit  
successfully?**

# [ Necessary Funding ]



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# The future of your funding

**Have you taken steps to  
secure future funding?**

# [Actively Seeking Funding?]

- 63 Units Seeking Funding
- 40 Units Not Seeking Funding





What else did you tell us?

Your comments and  
concerns.

# [ Recommendations/Comments ]

From Region 1:

- “We feel strongly that if government does not sustain, in some capacity, units who have provided such assistance and are a recognized entity in emergency response, momentum might be lost and work negated in time.”

# [ Recommendations/Comments ]

From Region 1:

- “We are a new MRC- exploring funding options: State, regional, bio-terrorism coalition (State and Fed moneys), City (Mayor’s Office), Community hospital, Medicare reimbursements from flu clinics, private funding sources, voluntary donations of \$257-shared with EM.”

# [ Recommendations/Comments ]

## From Region 2:

- “We have no future funding. We are using rooms in town for supplies and office. Eagle Scouts project helping renovate office space.”  
“Finding funds is time consuming. Without some financial support it will be difficult to do all the things we have been doing. We do not have any other source of funding or income at this time.”

# [ Recommendations/Comments ]

From Region 3:

- “Our unit has obtained state non-profit and IRS 501c3 status. Plan to seek funds from businesses and grant-making organizations. We have obtained non-OSG grants in prior years.”

# [ Recommendations/Comments ]

From Region 3:

- “We have worked with our Citizen Corps Council, Local Emergency Planning Council, and our Regional Terrorism Task Force to ensure that we take advantage of any funding that may be available to us.”

# [ Recommendations/Comments ]

From Region 4:

- “We are in the midst of a sustainability effort, reaching out beyond our “usual contacts” in the community. We held a Summit Breakfast for Leaders in the community and asked for their ideas on the future of our MRC, including activities, hosting.”

# [ Recommendations/Comments ]

From Region 4:

- “Staff to manage a volunteer organization is essential, part-time management has not been effective, nor has unfunded management.”



# [ Recommendations/Comments ]

## From Region 5:

- “Looked for government and local grants to fund staff, training, and supplies. Attempted to train volunteers to handle training, recruitment and communications. Working with Optimist, Rotary, Kiwanis, etc., to provide some donations ‘in kind’.”

# [ Recommendations/Comments ]

From Region 7:

- “Medical Reserve Corps should encourage their states and/or urban areas to include funding for them in the FY06 Homeland Security Grants applications to enhance citizen preparedness and medical surge.”

# [ Recommendations/Comments ]

From Region 9:

- “An extensive grant search was done with no grants found for which our MRC unit could qualify. Also, a draft plan to institutionalize this program into our Public Health division and fund it with County general funds has been proposed.”

# [ Recommendations/Comments ]

From Region 9:

- “We have developed a comprehensive strategic plan to secure future funding through several means: grants, fundraising, corporate sponsorships and individual donations and gifts. This includes working with professional fundraisers to help us plan and manage fundraisers.”

# [ Recommendations/Comments ]

From Region 10:

- “Funding is definitely the biggest barrier to recruiting and training volunteers for our unit. We did not get in on the initial grant funding-but feel that it is critical to have an MRC for surge capacity issues at hospitals in our region and for public health needs.”

# Recommendations from the Sustainability Work Group

## **Build Stronger Relationships, with your:**

- Health Department
- Emergency Service Agencies
- Local Hospitals
- Health Insurers
- Pharmaceutical and Medical  
Equipment Companies

# Recommendations from the Sustainability Work Group

It is a challenge to secure the time and effort to research and write grants. Without paid staff or a nonprofit partner that has paid staff that can do the job, it is unlikely that an MRC will be able to put forth the effort to secure grants.

***In this case:***

# Recommendations from the Sustainability Work Group

- Hire a professional grant writer/manager or find a volunteer with the background and time to do this job.
- Develop a strategic alliance or partnership with a strong nonprofit or governmental entity to act as a fiduciary and to take on the grants writing and management task.
- Work on a regional level with other MRC Units to secure regional funds.



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# Group Discussion

What has your unit done to  
address the issue of  
Sustainability?

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# Group Discussion

What more do you suggest the Sustainability Work Group do to assist MRC units across the country toward continued Sustainability?



Thank you

